

REMARKS

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to an outstanding Office Action dated October 22, 2003, the shortened statutory period for response having expired on January 22, 2004. Accordingly, a Petition and Fee for Extension of time are included herewith.

I. Status of the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 11 as indicated above. Claims 1-21 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's citation of statutory authority as a basis for claim rejections.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 9-13 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kosaka et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,629). The Examiner has also rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Independent claims 1 and 11 recite estimating a power value of each partial speech segment and generating synthesized speech using the estimation result. Each partial speech segment includes vowel portion and consonant portion.

Applicant submits that Kosaka teaches normalizing a power using the average vowel power as a reference. However, Kosaka fails to teach or suggest estimating power of consonant portion. Figs. 4B and 5B of Kosaka show a power normalizing function including the consonant portion. However, the power normalization function at the consonant portion of Kosaka is generated by interpolating the changing rate at the vowel portion. According to

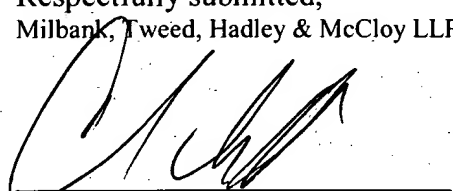
Kosaka, normalizing function in the consonant portion is not calculated based on power estimation of consonant portion. At least for this reason, applicant submits that Kosaka does not anticipate or render obvious the rejected claims.

Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner has objected to claims 4-8 and 14-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,
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